

CoRIS Meeting Notes - February 11, 2004

Introductions - Shauna Slingsby, a Sea Grant Fellow from the NMFS, joined the meeting and will be a contact with CoRIS. Anthony Picciolo, recently retired from Federal service, will continue to support CoRIS as a consultant. Welcome, Shauna, and welcome back Tony. Tony's will develop one or more essays on coral topics, review professional exchanges on CHAMP and add appropriate topics to CoRIS, expand the Glossary, continue to maintain the list of taxa in coral data, and provide scientific guidance and writing.

NOAA Coral Coordination Meeting - Parmesh gave a CoRIS overview presentation at the last Coral Coordination meeting. The response was very good, with questions and comments. Many in the meeting were not aware of all that CoRIS is doing to support the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program.

New CoRIS Capabilities - Team members are encouraged to try new CoRIS search capabilities, starting with the updated Data Discovery page at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov/data/welcome.html>. From a new Browse page, users can browse through metadata that are listed according to data type. Links to data are provided. The new Text Search page includes lists of Location, Theme, and Temporal keywords that appear in metadata records. Rather than guessing at search terms, visitors can select one or more terms that will return metadata. Finally, they can also use lists of taxa and find matching metadata. These improvements were made in response to input obtained at user evaluation workshops and meetings.

CoRIS Metadata Team - Mark Eakin volunteered to lead the CoRIS Metadata Team in view of Dave Anderson's workload. Thanks, Mark.

Review of Recommendations from Mark McCaffrey's Education and Outreach Workshops - The group reviewed a summary of recommendations for improving CoRIS. The summary, along with comments and action items resulting from the review, are presented below.

Proposed CoRIS Activity Priorities

This list summarizes recommendations of many people who participated in the CoRIS Data Outreach 2003 project, led by Mark McCaffrey. Comments were obtained by Mark during many meetings in Hawaii and American Samoa, during which NOAA's Coral Reef Information System was presented to those with an interest in corals. A second series of meetings is being planned for Atlantic coral regions.

The original list of recommendations was prioritized by CoRIS team members through individual comments and during the February 11, 2004 team meeting.

References:

- McCaffrey, Mark, December 2003, "Noaa Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) Data Outreach Project 2003, American Samoa and the Hawaiian Islands", email from Mark.McCaffrey@noaa.gov dated January 12, 2004.
- email from Tom.Hourigan@noaa.gov dated January 12, 2004.

Recommendations:

1) Expand access to existing NOAA data

- Coral Reef Conservation Program
- [Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative](#)
- [National Coral Reef Institute](#)
- [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#)
- [National Center for Caribbean Coral Reef Research](#)
- Data referenced in the "[State of U.S. Coral Reefs](#)" report
- Focus on coral monitoring data
- Look for data that show real-time conditions - for example, CoastWatch, SEAKEYS and HOTSPOTS data.

2) Ensure secure access to sensitive datasets

- Mark Eakin, along with the Metadata Team, agreed to develop a 1-2 page plan outline for protecting sensitive data.
- The plan will consider having a parallel server for sensitive data, with password-protected access only by NOAA personnel.
 - Mark expects to present the plan at the first March CoRIS meeting.

3) Improve search functions

Mark's report has many recommendations for improving data discovery. This is a summary of recent progress, plus notes on Map search problems.

- Progress - New Text Search page is now in place, with these features
 - Browse capability gives 'browse' access to all metadata, arranged in groups of product type
 - Keyword search is aided by lists of keywords found in metadata
 - Taxonomic Name search provides lists of names found in metadata
- Map Search page is badly in need of repair
 - New Layers needed to display new data types
 - Map inventory records exist for only 163 out of 400 metadata
 - Map Search tutorial is needed for the uninitiated user

- Ensure that consistent information is presented from Text and Map search pages

4) Develop 'Scaffolded' material to set coral data into context

- This is viewed as an expansion of the original CoRIS mandate, so a concept will be developed and introduced to the CoRIS Editorial Board. A CoRIS sub-team will hold a 2-3 day workshop to develop the concept and begin work on a proposal. This will be used to seek funding in next year's project proposal cycle.
- Seek the cooperation of NWHI Reserve and FKNMS to develop the concept and obtain partial funding for the project.

5) Obtain access to coral data from other U.S. federal and state agencies

- The Metadata Team will draft a plan to establish a structure for obtaining non-NOAA data that may be available. Once the structure is in place, CoRIS can move quickly to obtain data and metadata when they are made available.